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(DOCUMENTS)

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(BY ROBERT SANGEORGE)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE CIA ASKED THE SUPREME COURT TODAY TO BLOCK WHAT IT CALLED AN UNPRECEDENT COURT ORDER THAT IT TURN OVER "SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION" TO THE REV. SUN MYUNG MOON'S UNIFICATION CHURCH.

THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY ARGUED THAT EXEMPTIONS IN THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT ALLOW IT TO WITHHOLD THE DOCUMENTS, WHICH CONCERN "KOREAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS DURING THE LATE 1970S."

MOON, 61, PLEADED INNOCENT TODAY IN FEDERAL COURT IN NEW YORK TO CHARGES HE FILED FALSE INCOME TAX RETURNS FOR THREE YEARS AND FAILED TO PAY TAXES ON \$162,000 IN INCOME.

THAT CASE IS NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE BATTLE WITH THE CIA. THE CONTROVERSIAL CHURCH LEADER, WHO CLAIMS MORE THAN 3 MILLION FOLLOWERS IN 130 COUNTRIES, WAS FREED ON \$250,000 BOND.

THE CIA, IN URGING THE JUSTICES TO DELAY A LOWER COURT RULING, SAID THE MATERIAL REQUESTED BY MOON'S GROUP IS EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE ON GROUNDS "OF FOREIGN POLICY OR NATIONAL SECURITY," AS WELL AS THE PROTECTION OF "INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS."

"THIS IS THE FIRST CASE IN WHICH A COURT OF APPEALS ACTUALLY HAS ORDERED THE DISCLOSURE OF SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION THAT IS CLASSIFIED UNDER AN EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT IN THE INTEREST OF NATIONAL SECURITY," THE AGENCY ARGUED.

"SUCH A (LOWER COURT) DECISION HAS RAMIFICATIONS FAR BEYOND THE DISCRETE INJURY THAT MIGHT RESULT FROM DISCLOSURE OF THE PARTICULAR INTELLIGENCE SOURCES INVOLVED."

THE CIA CASE BEGAN IN 1978 WHEN THE UNIFICATION CHURCH MADE ITS ORIGINAL REQUEST FOR THE INFORMATION. AFTER THE AGENCY REFUSED TO TURN OVER MANY OF THE DOCUMENTS, THE CHURCH FILED SUIT.

A FEDERAL DISTRICT JUDGE ORDERED THE RELEASE OF PARTS OF SIX DOCUMENTS. THE JUDGE NOTED THE PAPERS "INVOLVE CONGRESSIONAL AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE INQUIRIES INTO KOREAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS DURING THE LATE 1970S AND REFER ONLY INCIDENTALLY TO THE UNIFICATION CHURCH OR ITS FOUNDER SUN MYUNG MOON."

(over)